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ABSTRACT

In 1992, surveys of the educational and employment status of 1991-1992 Associate of Arts degree program graduates were conducted by the seven community colleges in the Twin Cities metro area of Minnesota: Anoka-Ramsey, Cambridge Center, Inver Hills, Lakewood, Minneapolis, North Hennepin, and Normandale. All the colleges used the same survey instrument and two follow-up efforts. Results of the studies included the following: (1) the overall response rate for the seven colleges was 81%, with a high of 92% for Lakewood, and a low of 59% for Minneapolis; (2) 65% of all the respondents were currently enrolled in a four-year college, while an additional 6% were continuing their education at two-year colleges; (3) Inver Hills had the highest percentage of respondents enrolled in four-year institutions (77%), while Anoka-Ramsey had the lowest percentage (57%); (4) 27% of the respondents reported employment and no continuing education, while only 3% reported being unemployed and not continuing their education; (5) 40% of Anoka-Ramsey respondents reported being employed, compared with 19% of Minneapolis' respondents; (6) nearly half of those graduates enrolled in four-year institutions had transferred to one of the seven colleges in the Minnesota State University (MSU) system, over one-fifth were enrolled at the University of Minnesota (UM), and 10% had transferred to four-year schools outside of the state; and (7) among students enrolled in spring 1992 who transferred without a degree, one-third transferred to an MSU school, while 30% had enrolled at UM. Data tables, the survey instrument, and sample follow-up letters are included. (PAA)

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TRANSFER ACTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT OF 1991-92 AA GRADUATES AT MINNESOTA TWIN CITY AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

METRO PILOT STUDY REPORT # 2

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North Hennepin Community College
Minneapolis, Minnesota
May 1993

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TRANSFER ACTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT OF 1991-92 AA GRADUATES
AT MINNESOTA TWIN CITY AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

METRO PILOT STUDY REPORT #2
May, 1993

Summary and Conclusions

This report provides the results of placement studies on Associate in Arts (AA) graduates for 1991-92. All seven Twin Cities Metro area Community Colleges participated in the studies. The use of mailed surveys and phone follow-up, where graduates did not respond to the mailed survey, resulted in an 81% response rate. This response rate lends credibility to the results found in the study.

Sixty-five percent of the AA graduates transferred to a four-year college during Fall 1992. An additional six percent continued their education at a two-year college. Twenty-seven percent of the graduates reported employment. Only three percent reported neither employment nor enrollment.

Almost half of the transferring AA graduates transferred to one of the seven colleges in the Minnesota State University System. That percentage was considerably higher than the percentage of four-year transfers choosing the State Universities in the study of general "Leavers" from the colleges. About one-fifth of the graduates transferred to the University of Minnesota and another fifth transferred to the Private Colleges in Minnesota. The final ten percent transferred to four-year colleges outside Minnesota.

Introduction

This report is an accumulation of placement studies of Associate in Arts graduates from the seven Twin Cities Metro area Community Colleges. The survey used (Appendix A) covered the current educational and occupational status of the graduates. This report focuses primarily on educational status as the Associate in Arts (AA) degree is designed primarily for transfer to a four-year college.

Method and Response Rates

The surveys were first mailed to the graduates with a cover letter (Appendix B) from the appropriate College President. Non-respondents received, approximately three weeks later, a second mailing with a "Cartoon" reminder (Appendix C) and a second copy of the survey. Efforts were then made to contact non-respondents by phone. All AA graduates were surveyed.

Figure 1, at right, shows response rates for the seven colleges. Detailed information is presented in Table 1 in Appendix D. The total response rate was 81%. Lakewood (92%) and North Hennepin (87%) had the highest response rates. Minneapolis had the lowest response rate (59%), while Inver Hills (73%), Anoka-Ramsey (76%), Normandale (81%), and Cambridge Center (82%) had average response rates. Minneapolis' low response rate is consistent with the low response rate for that college in the "Leavers" study (see Metro Pilot Study Report #2).

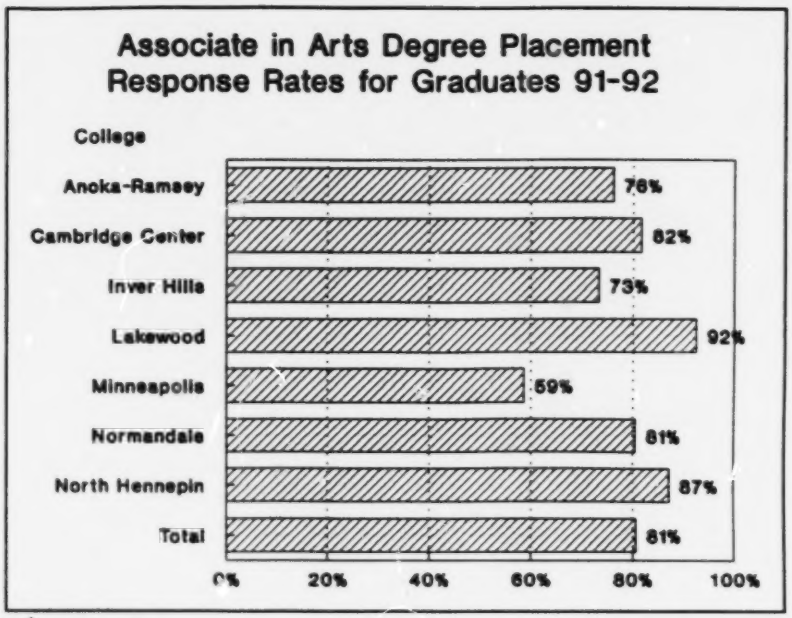

Figure 1

Current Status

Figure 2, at right, shows the current status of the graduates in Fall 1992. Details are given in Table 1 in Appendix D. Sixty-five percent of all respondents were currently enrolled in a four-year college. Inver Hills had the highest percentage (77%), with Minneapolis second (71%). Anoka-Ramsey had the lowest percentage(57%). The other four colleges were very close to the Metro area total.

An additional six percent of the students were continuing their education at two-year colleges, with most continuing at Community and Technical

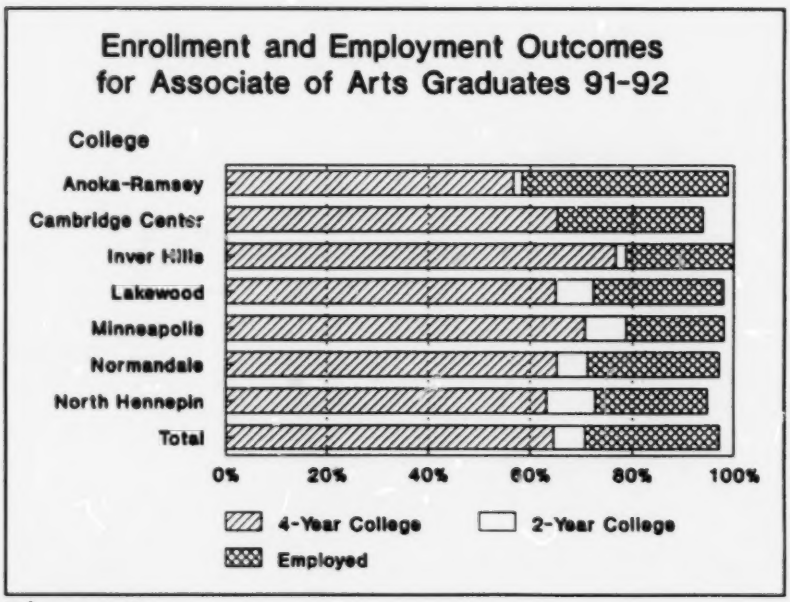

Figure 2

Colleges in Minnesota. Very few Anoka-Ramsey (2%) and Inver Hills (2%) graduates were continuing their education at two-year colleges and none of the Cambridge Center graduates were continuing their education at two-year colleges. North Hennepin had the highest percentage of continuing education at two-year colleges (10%).

Twenty-seven percent of the respondents reported employment and no continuing education. Only three percent were unemployed and not continuing their education. Anoka-Ramsey (40%) had the highest percentage employed, while Minneapolis (19%), Inver Hills (21%), and North Hennepin (22%) had the lowest.

Four-Year College Transfer Destinations

Figure 3, at right, shows the types of four-year institutions graduates chose to attend. In addition, data are included from the "Leavers" study of students who enrolled in Spring 1992 but did not return for Fall 1992 (see Metro Pilot Study Report #2). Detailed information supporting this figure is in Table 2 in Appendix D.

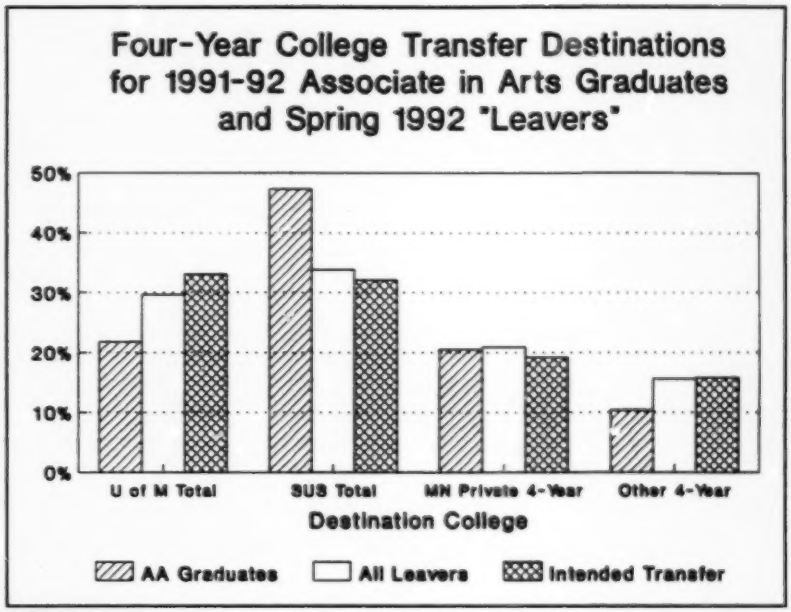

Figure 3

Almost half of the AA graduates transferred to one of the seven colleges in the Minnesota State University System. Over one-fifth of the transferring graduates transferred to the University of Minnesota, and slightly fewer transferred to Minnesota's Private Colleges. Ten percent transferred to four-year colleges outside Minnesota.

Figure 3 also includes data on "Leavers". "Leavers" are students enrolled Spring 1992 who did not return Fall 1992 (See Metro Pilot Study Report #3). The figure shows the percentage of "Leavers" transferring to each of the four types of colleges. Comparable data for the subgroup "Leavers" intending to transfer are also shown. It might be thought the intended transfer "Leavers" would be more similar to the Associate in Arts graduates than the total group as an AA degree might be most appropriate for them. That hypothesis was not supported, as the percentages for the intended transfer "Leavers" were closer to the total "Leavers" group than to the AA Graduates.

Transferring "Leavers" were considerably less likely to transfer to the State University System. Only one-third of the "Leavers" transferred to the State University System. Most of the difference was accounted for by the University of Minnesota, which attracted 30% of the "Leavers", compared to 22% of the AA graduates. Minnesota's Private Colleges had a slightly higher

percentage of "Leavers" than AA graduates. The percentage of "Leavers" transferring out of state (16%) was considerably higher than for AA graduates (10%).

The State University System's greater draw from graduates probably relates to their acceptance of the AA degree as fulfilling their lower division requirements. The University of Minnesota does not accept the AA as fulfilling lower division requirements. Rather, the University evaluates individual courses for transfer. This provides an incentive for those with an AA degree to transfer to the State University System. In addition, the University of Minnesota's approach is a disincentive to completing the AA degree as in most cases the AA degree will require some courses that the University will not accept.

APPENDIX A

NORTH HENNEPIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE PLACEMENT SURVEY

Please respond to the questions listed below and mail the completed form back within 10 days.

1. IF YOU ARE ATTENDING ANOTHER COLLEGE:

a. What is the name of the school? _____

b. Have you been admitted to a degree, diploma, or certificate program at that school?

☐ 1. Yes ☐ 2. No

c. How important to you is the additional degree, diploma, or certificate you are seeking?

☐ 1. Very Important ☐ 3. Slightly Important
☐ 2. Important ☐ 4. Not Important

d. How many credits are you currently taking? _____ credits

2. IF YOU HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED SINCE GRADUATING FROM NORTH HENNEPIN:

If you have had more than one job since graduation, please answer about the most important one.

a. What is the name of your employer (company)? _____

b. In what city is your employer located? _____

c. How many hours a week, on average, do you work? _____ weekly work hours

d. How many weeks have you worked for this employer since graduating from North Hennepin? _____ weeks

e. What is your salary in this job, in **either** dollars per hour, week, month, or year?

_____ $ per hour _____ $ per week _____ $ per month _____ $ per year

f. Is this job related to the education you received at North Hennepin?

☐ 1. Strongly Related ☐ 3. Slightly Related
☐ 2. Related ☐ 4. Not Related

g. When did you begin this job?

☐ 1. Before attending NHCC ☐ 2. While attending NHCC
☐ 3. After graduating from NHCC

3. IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED, PLEASE INDICATE WHY:

☐ 1. Unemployed, but seeking a job ☐ 2. Not seeking employment (for whatever reason)

4. WHO IS RESPONDING TO THIS SURVEY?

☐ 1. The graduate ☐ 2. Relative or other individual who knows the graduate well

THAT'S IT! THANKS VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND HELP.

(Office use only: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____)

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APPENDIX B

Dear North Hennepin Graduate --

Congratulations on your graduation from North Hennepin Community College! We hope we were able to serve you well while you were at the College, and we wish you the best in your future.

Would you please take a few minutes to respond to the enclosed Placement Survey? We send the survey to all our previous year's graduates in order to learn what they are doing in their careers and education. We then summarize that information and use it to tell our current students what the job market is like and what our graduates are doing and have achieved.

The information you give us is vital to that task, and we appreciate your participation. The questionnaire will take only a few minutes to complete, and your responses will be kept anonymous and confidential.

Please mail us your completed Placement Survey in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope within 10 days. Thank you very much for your help and cooperation.

Yours truly,

Frederick W. Capshaw, Ph.D
President

APPENDIX C

Help !!

The computer can't do it all. We need your response to the enclosed survey. We are sending you another survey because we are very anxious to hear from you.

APPENDIX D

Table 1
Outcomes for Associate in Arts Graduates 1991-92

COLLEGE	Anoka-Ramsey	Cambridge Center	Inver Hills	Lakewood	Minneapolis	Normandale	North Hennepin	Total
Number of AA Graduates	306	60	135	306	169	554	374	1904
Respondents	233	49	99	283	99	446	326	1535
Response Rate	76%	82%	73%	92%	59%	81%	87%	81%
Four Year Colleges								
University of Minnesota								
Twin Cities	25	3	9	45	20	65	24	191
Duluth	4	2	1	2	3	7	3	22
Morris	2						1	3
U of M Total	31	5	10	47	23	72	28	216
Minnesota State Universities								
Bemidji	1	2		1		4	4	12
Mankato	10		5	8	1	40	10	74
Metro		1	5	26	24	28	28	112
Moorhead	2			3		2	2	9
Southwest				2		3		5
St. Cloud	65	14	7	23	3	45	77	234
Winona	5	1	6	3	1	7		23
SU'S Total	83	18	23	66	29	129	121	469
MN Private Four-Year Colleges	12	6	27	41	15	61	41	203
Other Four-Year Colleges	6	3	16	30	3	29	16	103
Four-Year Transfer Total	132	32	76	184	70	291	206	991
Percent of Total	57%	65%	77%	65%	71%	65%	63%	65%
Two-year College Continuation								
Community Colleges	1			6	4	15	23	49
Technical Colleges	3			9	4	12	6	34
Private Two-Year			2	6			2	10
Two-Year Total	4	0	2	21	8	27	31	93
Percent of Total	2%	0%	2%	7%	8%	6%	10%	6%
Employed, Not in School	94	14	21	72	19	115	72	407
Percent of Total	40%	29%	21%	25%	19%	26%	22%	27%
Neither Enrolled Nor Employed	3	3	0	6	2	13	17	44
Percent Total	1%	6%	0%	2%	2%	3%	5%	3%
Total Respondents	233	49	99	283	99	446	326	1535

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APPENDIX D

Table 2
Transfer Colleges for 1991-92 Associate in Arts Graduates and Spring 1992 "Leavers" - All and Those Intending to Transfer

	Anoka-Ramsey	Cambridge Center	Inver Hills	Lakewood	Minneapolis	Normandale	North Hennepin	Total
AA Graduates 1991-92								
U of M Total	31	5	10	47	23	72	28	216
SUS Total	83	18	23	66	29	129	121	469
MN Private 4-Year	12	6	27	41	15	61	41	203
Other 4-Year	6	3	16	30	3	29	16	103
Total 4-Year	132	32	76	184	70	291	206	991
U of M Total	23%	16%	13%	26%	33%	25%	14%	22%
SUS Total	63%	56%	30%	36%	41%	44%	59%	47%
MN Private 4-Year	9%	19%	36%	22%	21%	21%	20%	20%
Other 4-Year	5%	9%	21%	16%	4%	10%	8%	10%
All Leavers Spring 1992								
U of M Total	24	24	14	31	24	33	16	166
SUS Total	43	30	18	15	13	33	37	189
MN Private 4-Year	12	28	14	19	11	16	17	117
Other 4-Year	5	25	11	15	8	13	10	87
Total 4-Year	84	107	57	80	56	95	80	559
U of M Total	29%	22%	25%	39%	43%	35%	20%	30%
SUS Total	51%	28%	32%	19%	23%	35%	46%	34%
MN Private 4-Year	14%	26%	25%	24%	20%	17%	21%	21%
Other 4-Year	6%	23%	19%	19%	14%	14%	13%	16%
Spring 1992 Leavers Intending to Transfer								
U of M Total	18	18	11	25	18	27	9	126
SUS Total	26	17	14	9	11	20	25	122
MN Private 4-Year	7	15	10	14	6	8	13	73
Other 4-Year	3	17	10	11	5	9	5	60
Total 4-Year	54	67	45	59	40	64	52	381
U of M Total	33%	27%	24%	42%	45%	42%	17%	33%
SUS Total	48%	25%	31%	15%	28%	31%	48%	32%
MN Private 4-Year	13%	22%	22%	24%	15%	13%	25%	19%
Other 4-Year	6%	25%	22%	19%	13%	14%	10%	16%